

South Central INSIGHT Programme (SCIP) funding application form 2026

The following form and guidance are intended for applicants to **South Central INSIGHT Programme (SCIP) funding ONLY**. **Please complete all sections.**

The deadline for receipt of applications is **6th April 2026**.

*Applications are welcome from undergraduate or postgraduate students/early career professionals working towards registration/ registered with one the following regulatory bodies (not including doctors and dentists):

- Academy for Healthcare Science
- General Chiropractic Council
- General Dental Council
- General Medical Council
- General optical Council
- General Osteopathic Council
- General Pharmaceutical Council
- Health and Care Professions Council
- Nursing and Midwifery Council
- Social Work England
- UK Public Health Register

Applicants must be registered with one of the eligible professional regulatory bodies at commencement of the programme.

International Applicants

We welcome international applications to NIHR SCIP. Please note that tuition fees are covered up to the home-fee rate; applicants are responsible for any fee difference. Offer of funding may not align with visa permissions and applicants should ensure compliance relevant to their personal circumstance. For pre-application support we recommend contacting your preferred NIHR SCIP participating university to confirm eligibility.

A) Applicant Summary Information

* If you are a nurse, please include the category that best reflects your area of practice: Adult, Children, Mental Health, Community, or Other.

** Please provide your professional registration number (e.g. NMC PIN). If you are not yet registered, indicate your intended date of application.

*** This programme is open to individuals with up to 5 years Whole Time Equivalent (WTE) experience in their registered profession. For example, 5 years working full-time equates to 5 years WTE.

**** Please confirm employment status at the time studying as part of the SCIP programme would commence

***** If you have indicated that you will be in employment during the programme, please provide your employer's contact details including Organisation name, Line Manager name, and Line Manger email). By submitting this information, you confirm that you have discussed your application with your employer and have their support to apply.

Applicant Name	
Address	
Telephone number	
Email address	
DOB	

Ethnicity	
Profession*	
Professional regulatory body**	
Year of first registration	
Total number of years qualified	
Total number of whole-time equivalent years working in registered profession ***	
Employment status****	Full Time Part Time Not Employed
Employer*****	
Employer contact information (name and contact)	

B) University Application

Independent of your application for South Central INSIGHT Programme funding you **MUST apply directly to your first choice of University from the following list**: University of Southampton, Oxford Brookes University, University of Portsmouth, University of Winchester, Southampton Solent University.

*Applicants must select one of the following work–study combinations: work full-time/study part-time, work part-time/study part-time, or work part-time/study full-time. Studying full-time while working full-time is not permitted and applications proposing this combination will not be accepted.

Please indicate which University programme you have applied for	
Please indicate whether you have applied to study full time (one year) or part time (two years)	Study FT Study PT
Please indicate whether your plan to work alongside study. If you plan to work PT please state your expected WTE (e.g., FT time = 1WTE, working for half the week = 0.5WTE).	Work FT Work PT No work
If you are unsuccessful in your application to your first choice University, would you be happy for the SCIP team to share your	Y/N

application details with other Universities listed who may have unfilled places?	
Please indicate if you have contacted your first choice HEI programme lead.	Y/N

C) Applicant CV

Degrees and Professional Qualifications (including those in progress)

From	To	Qualification	Subject	Country	Institution	Classification

Present and Previous Employment

From	To	Position	Organisation

D) Applicant ambition

a) Please describe your reason(s) for applying to the SCIP programme (300 words)

Applications will be scored based on alignment with SCIP programme aims. A strong response may include reference to your eligibility, your intention to pursue a research-inclusive career, and your rationale for selecting a particular Higher Education Institution (HEI), including considering appropriate research supervision where appropriate.

b) Please describe your career aspirations (300 words)

Responses will be scored on clarity and ambition. A strong answer will explicitly outline your intention to pursue a research-inclusive career and provide a clear justification for how the programme will help you reach your goals.

c) Please describe your intended area of research and why this is important to you/ your professional practice (300 words)

Responses will be scored on how well you have considered your research focus and its relevance to your role. A strong answer will demonstrate alignment between your topic and your profession, and, if applicable, acknowledge clear links with your employer. High-scoring responses may also show evidence of communication or collaboration with your employer or others in preparing this application.

d) Please describe any collaborations or partnerships that you currently have or hope to establish (300 words)

Responses will be scored on the strength and relevance of these partnerships. A strong answer will demonstrate thoughtful consideration of meaningful collaborations, how they will be developed or maintained, and the value they will add to your research and professional practice.

e) Please outline how you intend to manage your time whilst undertaking the INSIGHT programme (300 words)

Responses will be scored on your organisation and personal management skills. A strong answer will show practical strategies for managing workload and balancing commitments. This may include approaches to

time management, personal effectiveness, leadership, work–life balance, and any extracurricular activities. If you are currently in employment, please outline the conversations you have had with your employer.

f) Is there anything else that you would like to add to support your application? (300 words)
Candidates may choose to use this space to discuss employment gaps.

***** **Declaration** *****

I confirm that I have read and understood the eligibility criteria and that I meet them and I am eligible to apply.

If applicable, I confirm that I have employer support to apply.

I confirm that I have verified my status as an international or non-international student, including confirmation with my first choice Higher Education Institution (HEI) if applicable. I understand that it is my responsibility to ensure compliance with visa requirements where relevant.

I confirm that all material within this application is my own work and that I have taken steps to ensure that no part of the application has been plagiarised.

In submitting this application, I understand that the information within the application form will be shared for the purposes of the programme with the participating Universities and the National Institute of Health Research.

In submitting this application, I understand that successful applicants will be expected to engage with regular contact with the SCIP team and HEI programme leads throughout the duration of my studies.

I agree to meet the requirement of transparency for the programme to publish details of the awards and awardees, and that this may include my name, job title and photograph. I acknowledge that I understand that this is a requirement. I am aware that I have the right to object and that objections will be considered on a case-by-case basis, balancing public transparency and privacy rights.

I confirm that I am either currently registered with an eligible professional body OR working toward registration and have supplied the body name and planned registration date on the application form.

Thank you for completing this application.

SUBMIT